

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DUSSEL 00323 261603Z

65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01

/058 W

----- 112975

R 261410Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2552

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMCONSUL HAMBURG

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBER

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

CINCEUR STUTTGART

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DUSSELDORF 0323

MILITARY ADDRESSEES FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: PROSPECTS FOR NRW LAND ELECTION, MAY 4, 1975 -II

REF: DUESSELDORF 1122 OF DECEMBER 17, 1974

1. AS A CONSEQUENCE OF A NUMBER OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS, THE MOST SPECTACULAR OF WHICH IS THE EFFECTIVE PROPAGANDA USE OF FRANZ JOSEF STRAUSS' SONTHOFEN REMARKS, THE LEAD HELD BY THE CDU OVER THE SPD/FDP IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR THE NRW ELECTIONS ON MAY 4 MAY BE NARROWING. MANY OBSERVERS NOW EXPECT EITHER A DEAD HEAT OR A VERY NARROW SPD/FDP VICTORY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DUSSEL 00323 261603Z

2. ALTHOUGH THE MOST RECENT ALLENSBACH NATIONAL POLL

SHOWS THE DCU LEADING WITH 52, THE SPD WITH 41, AND THE FDP WITH 6 PERCENT (NRW CDU LEADER KOEPLER CLAIMS THIS ALSO APPLIES TO NRW), THE FEELING IS WIDE SPREAD THAT THE CDU NO LONGER HAS THE INITIATIVE AND THAT THE SPD/FDP ARE SLOWLY GAINING GROUND.

3. THE SPD HAD BEEN SEEKING AN EXCUSE TO RUN AGAINST STRAUSS PERSONALLY, AS THEY DID QUITE EFFECTIVELY IN 1972, AND HAVE GLEEFULLY SEIZED THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTED BY HIS SONTHOFEN REMARKS. STRAUSS THEN COMPOUNDED THE PROBLEM BY RISING TO WEHNER'S BAITING IN THE RECENT BUNDESTAG DEBATE ON INTERNAL SECURITY. WITHOUT EXPECTATION, SPD SPEAKERS IN NRW, INCLUDING WILLI BRANDT, HAVE CAMPAIGNED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY AGAINST STRAUSS, APPARENTLY WITH EXCELLENT RESULTS.

4. ANOTHER MAJOR FACTOR ENHANCING THE COALITION CHANCES HAS BEEN THE RECENT REVIVAL OF THE NRW FDP. THIS FIRST BECAME APPARENT A FEW WEEKS AGO WHEN THE FDP LEADERSHIP, ESPECIALLY FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER AND NRW CHAIRMAN RIEMER, BEGAN DELIBERATELY TO PRE-EMPT THE CDU ON SUCH ISSUES AS LAW AND ORDER, MAINTENANCE OF A FREE ENTERPRISE ECONOMY, EDUCATIONAL REFORM, AND INDUSTRIAL CODETERMINATION. AN ADDITIONAL FILLIP MAY BE GIVEN THE PARTY'S CHANCES IF INTERIOR MINISTER AND FORMER NRW CHAIRMAN WILLY WEYER AGAIN BECOMES POLITICALLY ACTIVE. WEYER, WHO GAVE UP THE NRW FDP CHAIRMANSHIP TO RIEMER AND RECENTLY WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE GERMAN SPORTS ASSOCIATION ON CONDITION HE ABANDON HIS POLITICAL CAREER, HAS INDICATED THAT HE MAY ENTER THE CAMPAIGN AND SERVE IN ANOTHER COALITION GOVERNMENT. WEYER IS A POPULAR FIGURE AND AN EXCELLENT SPEAKER AND WOULD CERTAINLY ADD SPICE TO THE CAMPAIGN. IN ANY EVENT, THE FDP NO LONGER SEEMS CONCERNED ABOUT CLEARING THE FIVE PERCENT HURDLE.

5. THE CDU CAMPAIGN THUS FAR HAS BEEN LACKLUSTER. DISTRACTED BY THE INTERNAL PARTY DEBATE OVER A CHANCELLOR CANDIDATE, THE CAMPAIGN HAS LACKED FOCUS. CODETERMINATION HAS BEEN DEFUSED AS AN ISSUE BY THE FDP PRACTICALLY PROMISING THAT IT WOULD NOT BECOME LAW. THE EFFORT TO MAKE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DUSSEL 00323 261603Z

SCHOOL REFORM A MAJOR ISSUE HAS FIZZLED. AND, THE LAW AND ORDER ISSUE, WHILE SHOWED PROMISE IN THE IMMEDIATE WAKE OF THE LORENZ KIDNAPPING HAS FLOUNDERED FOR LACK OF SPECIFIC CDU ALTERNATIVES. NRW CDU CHAIRMAN KOEPLER ACTUALLY SEEMS SOMEWHAT DISCOURAGED AND, PERHAPS CHAGRINED BY THE NECESSITY OF DEFENDING STRAUSS, HAS IN RECENT DAYS IN PRIVATE BEEN TALKING LIKE AN UNSUCCESSFUL CANDIDATE.

6. FINALLY, WHILE THE STATE OF THE ECONOMY AND THE UNEMPLOYMENT SITUATION HAVE NOT IMPROVED IN THE PAST FEW MONTHS, THEY HAVE NOT WORSENERD SUFFICIENTLY TO EITHER CAUSE ALARM OR TO GIVE CREDENCE TO THE CONSTANTLY REPEATED CDU PREDICTIONS OF IMMINENT DOOM.

7. IN SUM, THE CDU CAMPAIGN AT THE MOMENT, SEEMS TO HAVE RUN OUT OF STEAM. FDP PROSPECTS HAVE BEEN IMPROVED BY THEIR ADOPTING THE CDU'S PLATFORM AND BY THE PROSPECT OF WEYER'S RETURN. AND, THE SPD HAS BEEN GIVEN A WELCOME GIFT BY STRAUSS AT SONTHOFEN. THUS, THE NARROW CDU LEAD HELD AT THE END OF DECEMBER SEEMS TO BE SHRINKING, THE SPD HAS STABILIZED, AND THE FDP HAS SIGNIFICANTLY IMPROVED ITS CHANCES. OUR BEST GUESS NOW IS A VERY NARROW (TWO SEATS) MARGIN FOR THE SPD/FDP. HOWEVER, THE ELECTION IS STILL FIVE WEEKS AWAY AND, AS THE PAST TWO MONTHS HAVE DEMONSTRATED, A RELATIVELY MINOR SHIFT IN VOTER OPINION CAN ALTER THE SITUATION DRAMATICALLY.HENNEMEYER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ELECTION CAMPAIGNS, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, POLITICAL PARTIES, ELECTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DUSSEL00323
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750106-0196
From: DUSSELDORF
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750315/aaaaamvm.tel
Line Count: 133
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 DUESSELDORF 1122, 75 OF DECEMBER 17, 75 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROSPECTS FOR NRW LAND ELECTION, MAY 4, 1975 -II
TAGS: PINT, GE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006